



Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An exhaust-gas purification catalyst to be used close to the engine, for the purification of the exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine, comprising

palladium on aluminum oxide and barium oxide, wherein barium oxide and palladium crystallites are together deposited on the aluminium oxide support and the average particle size of the palladium crystallites present on the support is between 3 and 7 nm, wherein the palladium crystallites are deposited by capillary injection.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An exhaust gas purification catalyst comprising a monolithic honeycomb carrier made of ceramic or metal, having deposited thereon as a first catalytically active coating the catalyst of claim 1.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An exhaust-gas purification catalyst comprising a monolithic honeycomb carrier made of ceramic or metal, having deposited thereon as a first catalytically active coating in a concentration of between 50 and 200 grams per liter volume of the honeycomb carrier, the catalyst of claim 1.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 3 wherein said catalyst contains 1 to 10 g/l palladium, 45 to 180 g/l aluminum oxide and 5 to 20 g/l barium oxide.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 2, further comprising, a second catalytically active coating on said honeycomb carrier containing platinum

and rhodium on aluminum oxide as well as an oxygen-storing component and additional aluminum oxide applied to the first catalytically active coating.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 3, further comprising, a second catalytically active coating on said honeycomb carrier containing platinum and rhodium on aluminum oxide as well as an oxygen-storing component and additional aluminum oxide applied to the first catalytically active coating.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 5, wherein the aluminium oxide serving as a support for platinum and rhodium is stabilized with lanthanum oxide.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the aluminium oxide serving as a support for platinum and rhodium is stabilized with lanthanum oxide.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the second layer is in a concentration of 30 to 100 g/l volume of the honeycomb carrier.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the second layer is in a concentration of 30 to 100 g/l volume of the honeycomb carrier.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A process for producing the catalyst according to claim 2, comprising suspending aluminium oxide and barium hydroxide in water, passing the barium hydroxide into solution, to form a suspension shifting the pH value of the suspension into a basic range, introducing an aqueous solution of a precursor of palladium into the suspension by capillary injection, with constant stirring, and coating the honeycomb carrier with the resulting suspension, drying and calcining.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A process for producing the catalyst according to claim 3, comprising suspending aluminium oxide and barium hydroxide in water, passing the barium hydroxide into solution, to form a suspension shifting the pH value of the suspension into a basic range, introducing an aqueous solution of a precursor of palladium into the suspension by means of capillary injection, with constant stirring, and coating the honeycomb carrier with the resulting suspension, drying and calcining.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A process for producing the catalyst according to claim 5 comprising forming a first coating by suspending aluminium oxide and barium hydroxide in water, passing the barium hydroxide into solution to form a suspension shifting the pH value of the suspension into a basis range, introducing an aqueous solution of a precursor of palladium into suspension by capillary injection, with the constant stirring, and coating the honeycomb carrier with the resulting suspension, and drying, and thereafter depositing a second ~~catalytically~~ catalytically active coating containing platinum and rhodium or aluminium oxide, an oxygen storage component and additional aluminium oxide to the first coating, drying and calcining.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A process for producing the catalyst according to claim 6 comprising forming a first coating by suspending aluminium oxide and barium hydroxide in water, passing the barium hydroxide into solution to form a suspension shifting the pH value of the suspension into a basis range, introducing an aqueous solution of a precursor of palladium into suspension by capillary injection, with the constant stirring, and coating the honeycomb carrier with the resulting suspension, and drying, and thereafter depositing a second ~~catalytically~~ catalytically active coating containing platinum and rhodium or aluminium oxide, an oxygen storage component and additional aluminium oxide to the first coating, drying and calcining.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A starter catalyst for the purification of the exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine, comprising palladium and barium oxide on aluminum oxide, which catalyst is applied in the form of a coating to an inert honeycomb carrier, produced by a process comprising suspending aluminium oxide and barium hydroxide in water to form a suspension, whereby barium hydroxide passes into solution and shifts the pH value of the suspension into the basic range, introducing an aqueous solution of a precursor of palladium into the suspension by means of capillary injection, with constant stirring, and coating a honeycomb carrier with the resulting suspension, thereafter drying and calcining.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A process for the purification of the exhaust gases of a motor vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine, wherein a starter catalyst is disposed in a position close to the engine comprising passing said exhaust gases in contact with the catalyst according to claim 2 and thereafter contacting said exhaust gases with another catalyst.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A process for the purification of the exhaust gases of a motor vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine, wherein a starter catalyst is disposed in a position close to the engine comprising passing said exhaust gases in contact with the catalyst according to claim 3 and thereafter contacting said exhaust gases with another catalyst.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The process according to claim 11 which is carried out in the absence of ammonia.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The process according to claim 11 further comprising adjusting solids content of said suspension to 25 to 60 wt. % of said suspension.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process according to claim 11 wherein the

aluminum oxide is stabilized with lanthanum oxide.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The catalyst according to claim 1 which has a size distribution of ± 0.5 nm.